

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steffen Schlehuber
Entitled: Muteins of the Bilin-Binding Protein
Serial No.: To be assigned
Date Filed: Concurrently

PRE AMENDT/A
AJ
P#7
9-26-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicant's respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel the second claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (3), please substitute for pending claims 3, 5-8, 13, 15, and 17 with the following clean version of the claims. The changes to these claims are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version of Claims."

3. (Amended) The polypeptide according to claim 1, characterized in that it carries, in comparison with the bilin-binding protein, at least one of the amino acid substitutions selected from Glu(28)->Gln, Lys(31)->Ala, Asn(34)->Asp, Ser(35)->His, Val(36)->Ile, Glu(37)->Thr, Asn(58)->Arg, His(60)->Ser, Ile(69)->Ser, Leu(88)->Tyr, Tyr(90)->Ile, Lys(95)->Gln, Asn(97)->Gly, Tyr(114)->Phe, Lys(116)->Ser, Gln(125)->Met, and Phe(127)->Leu.

5. (Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it carries at least one label group, selected from enzymatic label, radioactive label, fluorescent